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FCC-Competition Policy Division

Alexandria, VA 22301-1257  
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FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Competition Policy Division  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: §63.71 Application of MCI Communications, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services

Sirs:

We are writing to protest the proposed discontinuance of the MCI Calling Card of which we were notified by MCI in a letter dated November 6, 2015. My wife and I have been account-holders with MCI for decades and have found their calling card invaluable for keeping in touch during my numerous, long working trips to the United Kingdom and, less often, her visits to relatives in Australia. Between 1991 and 2009 I made nearly annual trips of one to five months to the United Kingdom to do research at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, just outside of London. In 2014 I spent another three months there and this year a further two months. I am planning another two-month trip to Kew in 2016 to continue the same research project and another extended period at Kew in 2017.

The MCI Calling Card is the only means by which my wife and I keep in touch while I am in U.K. We do not have smart phones and my wife, aged 74, has never used a computer and doesn't plan to learn how, so communicating via Skype would be impossible. Any other way would be prohibitively expensive. Where I work at the Kew Gardens—usually six days a week—I have access to a phone from which I can get an outside line in one touch, dial the MCI connecting code and then my home telephone number to reach my wife. It is convenient, inexpensive, and does not incur any costs to Kew Gardens. Payphones, which are a rarity these days, are not present nearby and, even if one were located, it would be very expensive. I would not be allowed to make international phone calls from a Kew telephone without using my calling card. My wife used to be able to call me at Kew using our MCI international subscriber plan, but this year the telephone system at Kew was changed and the new phones have a much lower ring tone, even set at maximum volume, so I was unable to hear the telephone from where I work. No Kew staff work close enough to that telephone to hear and answer it, so I have no means of knowing that there is or was a call for me.

In summary, discontinuance of the MCI Calling Card would be a great hardship for us, who are both in our seventies. With our current knowledge and technology we would be unable to keep in touch regularly, if at all, during my planned extended research visits to the United Kingdom in 2016 and 2017. We therefore request that the application by MCI to discontinue the MCI Calling Card be denied by the FCC.

Cordially,



Robert B. Faden and Audrey J. Faden

Our home telephone number is: 703 510 1007

My e-mail is: